

Milo Baker Chapter

California Native Plant Society

March 2010

Calendar

- 03/06 SCCC Awards Dinner, Sebastopol
- 03/09 Board Meeting
- 03/16 General Meeting, Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
- 03/15 Submissions deadline: April Newsletter

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March 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Plant Identification and Taxonomy Workshop

Join Lynn Houser, Milo Baker Chapter President, in a hands-on evening program about Plant I.D. and the science of Taxonomy. Learning the parts of a flower, being able to collect and identify specimens in the field, and a basic knowledge of plant families can bring you a botanical level of expertise needed in land management, rare plant monitoring (like the Adopt-a-Vernal pool program) and teaching others. Bring your hand lens and a sharp knife or

razor blade, and any references and keys you have. Lynn will bring fresh plant material and present a slideshow illustrating important taxonomic vocabulary, native plants of Sonoma County, and techniques for identifying them.



SUPERIOR-HYPOGYNOUS



SUPERIOR-PERIGYNOUS



INFERIOR-EPIGYNOUS

Above: Ovary position and insertion of flower parts. Superior and inferior describe the ovary; hypogynous, perigynous, and epigynous describe the flower. Redrawn from Plant Systematics, 2nd Ed. p. 237. 1986. McGraw-Hill. By Samuel B. Jones and Arlene E. Luchsinger.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting:

We'll gather for dinner at 6PM at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speaker will join us, but we always have an enjoyable group of fellow members and a delicious Northern Chinese meal in any case. Please contact Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com by March 15th if you plan to attend.

Plant ID Hour: This month Plant ID is the whole program! Doors will be open by 7:00 p.m. Regular Plant I.D. Hour will resume in April starting at 6:45 p.m.

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa. Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7:00pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa. **The next Board meeting is February 10th.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

President's Report



March is here and spring is on its way. We finally have had a wet winter, and the grass is growing tall. In my garden right now (February 16th) the showiest plant is Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry, *Ribes speciosum*, shown here. After about four years in the backyard

(purchased at our plant sale), this shrub reliably blooms heavily in winter with very leafy stems; goes dormant in summer, and then puts little green buds out in August and September, giving me hope that it will come back all green and red again. Very thorny, but just about the only *Ribes* I have been able to grow in my NW Santa Rosa clay soil, and very striking. Special thanks to Slow for the illustration.

At our February meeting, attended by about 45 people, we heard from Rick Taylor of Elder Creek Landscapes, which uses ecologically-minded landscape design. We learned about rain gardens and reducing our impact in pollution and runoff, water conservation and filtration, and attracting wildlife with landscaping. I'd like to thank Program Chair April Owens for setting up such a great line of speakers. April would like to extend the invitation to our members to help with contacts and the general meeting. She is unable to attend on Tuesdays, and would like to see the program filled with good speakers and someone to announce them. I have been doing the announcing for some time, but I often get caught up at the Plant I.D. Hour table and that starts us past 7:30. Liz is still our wonderful host at the Kirin restaurant on Yulupa before the meetings and Becky Montgomery brings a warm smile and tasty refreshments. With Jim Piercy taking care of finances, Wendy Smit with books and t-shirt sales, and Gary taking care of the "AV," our meetings are always fun and welcoming to new

members. Leia Giambastiani takes care of Publicity. We welcome any free media outlets to advertise our meetings and field trips. At the last meeting, we had our two most recent scholarship recipients, Andy Kleinhessellink and Susan Margoli, in the audience. We hope to hear back from Andy at a general meeting program soon on his research. Thanks to all our volunteers who make our meetings and our chapter successful! The Website committee is formed and will be meeting on a Wednesday or Thursday evening (probably at the Environmental Center), to discuss the website revamp. Your ideas are welcome at housers@sonic.net. We welcome Linda Ramos as our Newsletter Editor! Just before the board meeting, I got an email from Linda, who's lived in Santa Rosa for about a year but has been a CNPS member for a while, about gardening in clay and the Newsletter position. Our newsletter is our voice to our members and the public. If you have articles or events that you'd like to have featured, please email Linda at cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month. Your content makes it a good publication, and that includes illustrations, photos, and fun stuff like puzzles and poetry. Send her your creativity! Now Katy Redmon can focus on Legislative issues while our mailings continue to our members.

The state Chapter Council meeting will be held again in Claremont (S. CA) March 13th. Wendy Smit will be attending as alternate delegate; she may see some green hills down there in the tall San Gabriel Mountains. If you are interested in attending, you can find information about the state meeting at

<http://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncildec2009/>. Kevin Bryant, the Chapter Council Chair (from the Santa Clara Valley Chapter) has made it really easy to find this information, learn the agenda, register for meals, and meet other CNPS members. We have many field trips scheduled for spring and a vegetation workshop at Pepperwood in May, so mark your calendar. If there are places you want to see or if you want to lead a trip, please contact Cindy Tancreto or Cassandra Liu. Get out and see



the flowers; it ought to be a good year and very different from the dry January and cold March like the last few years. You can learn a lot of plants hanging out with CNPS!

Speaking of learning plants, classroom training from the Adopt a Vernal Pool with the Laguna Foundations' Citizen Scientist program takes place March 2nd and March 10th at the Laguna Treatment Plant from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Unfortunately, I just learned that the CNPS funds we have applied for to collaborate for this program (June Bilisoly bequest) were NOT approved. Donations to the Laguna Foundation are highly encouraged and tax-deductible. Your field time and expertise is needed to keep this high-quality citizen scientist



program going for the fourth year. Go to www.citizen-science.org for more information and sign up; you can enter your data on-line!

🐦Lynn Houser

State News

Chapter Council Meeting

The State Chapter Council meeting is **March 13th and 14th** in Claremont, CA (Southern California). The Keynote

Speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be Patrick S. Larkin, Executive Director for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. He will discuss RSABG's Seed Collection and Storage program. On Sunday, you can take a field trip to Whitewater Canyon Preserve, hosted by the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter. The Preserve is located north of Palm Springs at the western edge of the Colorado Desert and has a diversity of vegetation, including rare species such as the endangered triple-ribbed milk vetch (*Astragalus tricarinatus*). The Whitewater River runs through the Canyon, supporting desert and riparian vegetation. Tour the preserve and take a leisurely hike up the Canyon to explore the native flora and dramatic landscapes. For more info visit the website: <http://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncildec2009/>.

CNPS Education Program for Youth

CNPS is developing youth programs that will encourage children of all ages to get outside and explore nature. Using a curriculum of drawing, field sketching and writing created by John Muir Laws, author of *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada* and *Sierra Birds: a Hiker's Guide*, teachers and others who work with children will be able to introduce their students and youth to the full spectrum of nature, including plants and animals. Drawing exercises, games and short videos will help students gain confidence in their drawing and sketching skills as well as develop their powers of observation. Prior knowledge of botany or knowing plant names is not required to teach the curriculum. If you are interested in participating in using this program, please contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org.



Events and Items of Interest

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park

Volunteer Days -help restore the riverbank.

Wednesday mornings in Guerneville 16153 Main St. just upstream from the pedestrian bridge. Contact VictoriaWikle@usa.net or 865-2474 or russianriverkeeper.org, or Don McEnhill, rrkeeper@sonic.net. or 217-4762.

The 34th Annual Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner

March 6, Saturday 5:30-9pm

Sebastopol Veterans' Auditorium. See www.envirocentersoco.org for ticket info. Brock Dolman of OAEC Water Institute, will speak on gray water, ag conservation, ground water, city innovations, and more. Evelina Molina will MC. Gourmet local dinner by A la Heart Catering and live music. Benefits the Environmental Center and SCCC, the coalition of local environmental groups including Milo Baker CNPS, formed to share resources and facilitate collaboration.

Cunningham Marsh Work Days

Cunningham Marsh is a 19-acre conservation easement and home to the endangered Pitkin Lily. We are having two work days this year: Sundays, **April 4** and **May 2** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The work would involve careful weeding within the Lily exclosures, hardware removal around existing native plants and protection of oaks. **We really need your help.** Please bring water, gloves, long pants, boots, hat, and your favorite cutting or digging tool. We do have gloves and a few small tools. As parking is limited, please meet at the Safeway store on Hwy 116 (Healdsburg Ave.) in Sebastopol on the Rite-Aid side of the Safeway parking lot for carpooling. If you are able to help for a few hours, or if you have any questions, please contact Marcia Johnson at owlsnest@hughes.net or at 707-829-3808.

cnps.milobaker.outings@gmail.com



Invasive Plant Removal

As part of the project that erected a bridge joining Doran and Bird Walk Parks in Bodega Bay, several areas were restored to native vegetation through new plantings. Now, one of those areas is threatened by a large creeping patch of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). Come join me on

Sun. **Mar. 21** at 9 am to remove this invasive plant. I can provide 5 five gal buckets, 5 pairs of gloves and 5 pruning shears. If you can bring more (especially buckets) that would be great! If you have a kneeling pad or strap-on knee pads, it will be a plus. I'm figuring half a day will be all we'll want to do. Contact Dea Freid at lemuria@sonic.net if you'd like to participate. We'll meet at the first dirt parking lot at Doran Park. The \$6 entry fee will be waived for participants. **Note:** I have also been removing ice plant from the marsh at Doran where it is occupying the same habitat favored by *Cordylanthus maritimus ssp palustris* (Salt Marsh Bird's Beak) a 1 B listed plant. This task is huge and I can't do it all alone! I would welcome any assistance you might offer. Dates and times can be arranged to suit your schedule.

WeLoveBirds.org

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology launched a new social networking website in February.

WeLoveBirds.org is an interactive online community for bird enthusiasts. The site, designed for people who are passionate about birds, offers access to information on birds and birding from a leading ornithology lab and an opportunity to make a positive difference for birds and their habitats. "Given the many threats to birds, they need all the help they can get," said Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, NRDC senior attorney. "WeLoveBirds.org gives bird-lovers a place to share information and make a difference."

iGROW Program

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services has launched iGROW to promote growing, eating and sharing healthy food. The web site www.igrowsonoma.org has extensive information and resources for growing and finding fresh, local produce. Check it out and join the movement to grow a garden on every block.

***P*lant Sale News**

Design a t-shirt! See your favorite native plant or flower as wearable art. In addition to our ever popular Oak t-shirt design, we would like to create another design for this year's plant sale. Submit your ideas to editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com.

***F*ield Trips**

High Points of Pepperwood

March 6 Saturday 9am-3pm

brownpapertickets.com/event/88464

Join Peter Leveque as he explores the natural history of the Pepperwood Preserve from some of the highest elevation locations, including Telegraph Hill and Grouse Hill. Meet at the barn with water, lunch, hiking and rain gear for a rigorous hike on rough, uneven terrain.

See pepperwoodpreserve.org for more details and additional upcoming events.

CNPS Vegetation Sampling Workshop hosted by the Pepperwood Preserve

May 7 and 8, 2010

Please join the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Pepperwood Preserve, and CNPS Milo Baker Chapter for a two-day vegetation workshop. We will review the recently released second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens 2009), and provide initial training in the CNPS rapid assessment and relevé vegetation sampling protocols.

Participants will learn about the essential role of vegetation inventories and classification in ecological management and conservation, and we will practice compiling data in support of widely adopted classification standards and fine-scale mapping. We will assist the Pepperwood preserve in documenting some of their common and rare habitats such as annual and perennial grasslands and serpentine chaparral, as they plan to re-

evaluate vegetation in the preserve for a long-term monitoring plan.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?:

Lay and professional botanists, ecologists, resource managers, conservationists, and plant-enthusiasts. Participants should have basic plant identification skills.

TRIP LEADERS:

Julie Evens -- CNPS Lead Vegetation Ecologist

Peter Warner -- botanical consultant

LOCATION AND MEETING PLACE:

COST:

\$25 for CNPS members, \$40 for non-members

EQUIPMENT LIST: Please Bring the Following Equipment/Supplies:

- Clipboard
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Sturdy boots and field clothes appropriate for conditions
- Water
- Bag lunch
- Snacks

Optional Items:

- Compass and/with clinometers
- Binoculars
- Digital camera
- GPS unit

RSVP/QUESTIONS/CARPOOL INFORMATION:

Please contact Peter Warner: phytopagan@gmail.com

Pepperwood Preserve:



Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2009-10

President, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net
Vice President, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer, Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
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Cunningham Marsh, Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnest@hughes.net
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Director at Large, Joan Schwan, 823-0446, jschwan@sonic.net
Field Trips, Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, Hcindytancreto@pacbell.net
Field Trips, Cassandra Liu
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Legislative Chair, Katy Redmon, 762-3961, trypledee@comcast.net
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Plant Sale, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales, Wendy Smit, 431.7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Programs/Lectures, April Owens, 528-3387, Aprilleeowens@yahoo.com
Publicity, Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net
SCCC Rep., Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wendyk@pon.net
Southridge Preserve, Jeffery Barrett, Hbarrett8@sonic.net
SRJC Representative: OPEN
SSU Rep., Frederique Lavoipierre, 829-0751, lavoipie@sonoma.edu
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, HSarahpgordon@gmail.com

We invite you to join CNPS

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Chapter affiliation:

Milo Baker (Sonoma County)

Other county _____

Membership category:

Student or Limited Income..... \$25

Individual.....\$45

Family, Group or Library.....\$75

Plant Lover.....\$100

Patron.....\$300

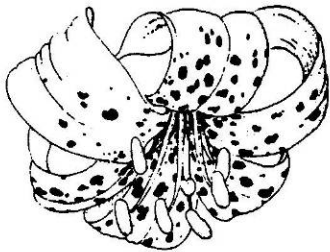
Benefactor.....\$600

Mariposa Lily.....\$1500

New Member Renewal

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

To pay by credit card or for more info call
916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Milo Baker Chapter
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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

www.cnpsmb.org

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Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the April
Newsletter is March 15.

The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.

To receive notification of the online newsletter,
or for newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com